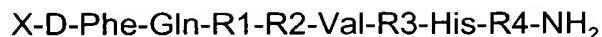


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A peptide of the formula



wherein X is acetyl or straight, branched or cyclic alkanoyl group from 3-16 carbon atoms, or X is deleted

R1 is Trp or D-Trp,

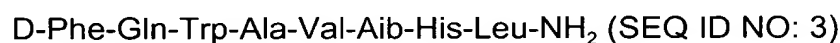
R2 is Ala, Aib or Deg,

R3 is Gly, Aib, Deg, Dpg or Ac5c,

R4 is Leu or Ile

~~or a hydrolyzable carboxy protecting group~~; wherein at least one of R2 or R3 is an α,α -dialkylated amino acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the peptide wherein Aib is α -aminoisobutyric acid, Deg is α,α -diethyl glycine, Dpg is α,α -di-n-propyl glycine and Ac5c is 1-amino-cyclo pentane carboxylic acid.

2. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Aib, R3 is Gly and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



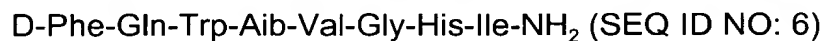
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is D-Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



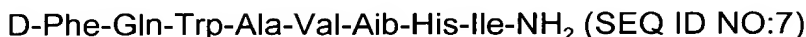
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Aib, R3 is Gly and R4 is Ile, and said peptide has the formula:



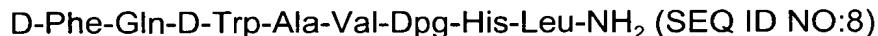
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Ile, and said peptide has the formula:



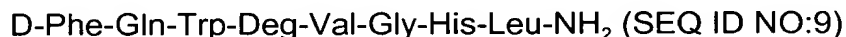
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is D-Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Dpg and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



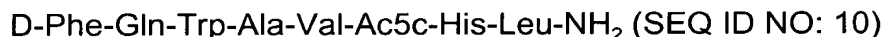
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Deg, R3 is Gly and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Ac5c and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is butanoyl, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is octanoyl, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu and said peptide has the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an effective amount of a~~ peptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 13-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 4, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 5, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 6, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 7, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 8, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 9, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 10, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 11, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 31- 50 (Cancelled)